

National Republican

W. J. MURTAGH, Editor and Proprietor.

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All communications, whether on business or for publication, should be addressed to W. J. MURTAGH, Proprietor, NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, Washington, D. C.

THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN HAS A LARGER CIRCULATION THAN ANY OTHER MORNING PAPER IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 1, 1875.

CAUCUS NOTICE.

A general caucus of the Republican members of both Houses of Congress will be held in the Hall of the House of Representatives at 7 o'clock to-night. The prompt attendance of members is especially requested, for the reason that business of the utmost importance will be submitted for consideration.

THE PERIL OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

THE PERIL OF THE COUNTRY.

The final adjournment of the Forty-third Congress is so near at hand, and the certainty that a dead lock regarding purely political questions will occur in the Forty-fourth is so apparent, that a few earnest words of advice to the Republican members of the present body are deemed to be imperatively required. Particularly does this appear to be true when it is remembered that up to this time no definite action has been reached which will relieve the party of impending peril—a peril which is in reality the peril of the Government itself.

It is useless to talk of what "might have been." We must grapple with the brief and fleeting present if we would protect ourselves against disaster in the future. It is wise, however, to allude to the past as a means of explaining the apparent demoralization of some of our should-be leaders at this important juncture, and we cannot recall that past without bringing up bitter memories of Credit Mobilier scandal and Back Pay cowardice. We find that many of the men whose characters were smirched, or whose backs bear the marks of flagellation, as the result of the Credit Mobilier investigation and the Back Pay business, still occupy positions which should entitle them to recognition as the thoughtful managers of the party. We do not wish to be understood as indorsing those scandals even in the slightest degree, and our opinions regarding the salary grab are well known. But we insist that if some of our leaders had not been frightened by criticisms of the so-called Independent Press, based upon those scandals, they would now be able to stand up with more courage in support of party measures when those measures are opposed by influencers which have caused them to cringe and beg for mercy at the hands of sensational and reckless critics. In other words, they do not forget the lash which was applied, justly or unjustly, with such unparagoning force upon their backs by irresponsible newspaper scribblers, whose unprincipled desire to attract attention blinded them to every sense of decency and justice. For example, Charles A. Dana, the editor of the New York *Evening Post*, a man who has willfully and maliciously lied about nearly every prominent man in the Republican party, a man who has debased a noble profession by using it as the medium to vent his personal spite, and a man who is notoriously the associate of thieves, blacklegs, dealers in counterfeit money and discharged and dishonest detectives, is one of a power to frighten the timid, "buried children" to whom we allude than they are willing to admit, or than their self-pride, if they have any, will justify. And Dana has a number of less capable followers, blackleggers of less force, who also make themselves felt, to the injury of party principles in the way they have no interest, and for the defeat of which they earnestly work. Starting and apparently inconsistent as these facts may seem, it is nevertheless true that men who led the van in support of those measures which served to save the country during the war, who braved the dangers of the battle field and endured the obloquy which followed from a loyal support of anti-slavery and Union principles, now flatter, struggle from the ranks, and run away from duty like a drove of cowardly sheep whenever the asses in lion's skins, known as the editors of the Independent Press, appear in their midst or make the faintest attempt to imitate the growl of real lions. If they dared to stand up to the rack—"fodder or no fodder," as the Grangers would say—if they dared to kick one of these cowardly asses, or strip one of them of his borrowed skin, the people would applaud them and they would themselves feel relieved of a nightmare. But, no! They tangle sublimely, and some of them have even gone so far as to seek protection and kindly endorsement at the hands of these sham. Like cur dogs, they lick the hand that smote them.

The result, as we have said, is an apparent demoralization among should-be leaders at this important juncture when fearless statesmanship and sturdy devotion to principle are imperatively demanded. The Cheap Transportation question suffers delay and is threatened with disaster as a consequence. Next year, when the farmers of the West begin to burn corn as fuel again, the excuse that aid to private transportation schemes or the development of internal improvements savored of jobbery will not be sufficient to relieve those who are recent to duty from a criticism more just and more damaging in its consequences than that from which they fly with abject terror now. With thousands and millions of dollars worth of cereals rotting in the granaries, with cotton, tobacco, naval stores, and with manufactured stuffs depreciated in value because greedy monopolists eat up the profit from them with extortionate freight tariff, and with a full knowledge of the cowardly manner in which their Representatives have knuckled down to the demands of demagogues, the people will be in no better humor next year than they were last fall. Take the case of Representative McCrary, of Iowa, as an example. Contrast the devotion of his constituents to him and their heartfelt support of his course in Congress with the diffident lack of enthusiasm yielded by the constituents of a dozen of

his contemporaries whose names instantly suggest themselves? What is the inference? Simply that Mr. McCrary, by boldly grasping the question of inter-State railway communication as applied to Cheap Transportation for himself the lasting gratitude of a thankful people.

But we claim that Internal Improvement and Cheap Transportation are not the paramount questions of the hour. It is true, as we have explained, that a lack of attention to them underlies much of the political discontent which now exists; but they are not so important as to overshadow the problems to be solved in the effort to maintain intact the cherished results of the victory over the slaveholders' attempt to destroy the Union. Occasionally, when some Republican Congressman, bolder than others, and more honestly devoted to principle, rises in his seat to speak of those results in danger of being blotted out, the country thrills with a responsive throb of generous sympathy; and when some fearless orator, like Phil Sheridan, epitomizes the situation with a single word, there is a startling arising of the people that proves how near and how dear the pledges of the Government, made as the natural consequences of the war, are to the masses of our fellow-countrymen. But then some cur-lion rises, and with the natural tones of a braying ass, cries "Bloody Shirt!" Forthwith the frightened and demoralized herd scatter and refuse to follow, not only the bold and honest leader, who has so successfully appealed to the sympathies of the people, but the honest dictates of their own consciences. There is not a man among these frightened ones who will deny that the full force and effect of the Reconstruction Acts—laws passed by themselves or their more competent predecessors—are being constantly ignored. To instance our meaning: the act to admit the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Florida to representation in Congress provides that "the constitution of neither of said States shall ever be so amended 'or changed as to deprive any citizen or 'class of citizens of the United States of the right to vote in said State who are 'entitled to vote by the constitution thereof; 'of herein recognized, except as a punishment for such crimes as are now felonies 'at common law, whereof they shall have 'been duly convicted under laws equally 'applicable to all the inhabitants of said 'State.' This was the pledge demanded by Congress of the Southern people before they were permitted to retake their places as political communities and State organizations in the Union which they had so treacherously attempted to destroy. We ask of these frightened ones again, are the White Leagues of the South acting in good faith as regards this pledge? Are they not attempting, by every imaginable means, by devious legislative enactments and by force of arms, to prevent citizens of the United States from voting? It must be remembered in this connection that the Republican party of the North committed itself in these Reconstruction Acts to the enfranchisement of the blacks. In other words, Northern Republicans gave the slaves of the South the right to vote—made freemen of them—and then turned them loose to shift for themselves in a country populated by thousands and hundreds of thousands of ex-Confederate soldiers, who had fought for years to keep them in slavery—turned them over, in fact, to the cruel vengeance of disappointed and defeated men of great armies, who had been sustained in the loss of blood and treasure by an assumed or a mistaken belief that they were made by the Creator to remain as levers of wood and drawers of water. We hear it said that the result is natural; that these ex-Confederates are prompted by impulses consistent with their former nature and discharged and dishonest detectives, is one of a power to frighten the timid, "buried children" to whom we allude than they are willing to admit, or than their self-pride, if they have any, will justify. And Dana has a number of less capable followers, blackleggers of less force, who also make themselves felt, to the injury of party principles in the way they have no interest, and for the defeat of which they earnestly work. 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men who sympathize with, if they do not participate in, their murdering and intimidating of political opponents. In this way, finally, they expect to put the haughty aristocrats of the South, with the aid of Northern doughfaces, into that power which they lost when they began the war for secession. These objects once accomplished—as they really will be if the present Congress fails to do its duty by providing means for the suppression and punishment of this great conspiracy—their future policy will be more cruelly proscripive and more basely treacherous. The Government will then be in the hands of ex-Confederates. The majority in Congress will be composed of men who represent ultra-rebel constituents. Among the questions presented by those constituents for the consideration of their representatives will be the following:

1. Pensions for their Confederate soldier constituents.
2. Payment of debts of the late Southern Confederate Government, owned and held by their constituents.
3. Payment for slaves set free by proclamation of President Lincoln, claimed by their constituents.
4. Payment for seizures and destruction of property by the United States troops in suppressing the rebellion.
5. Repudiation of the national debt, in which their constituents have and can have no possible right or interest.
6. Reorganization of all the Southern States on such a constitutional basis as permits of a legal disfranchisement—now attempted by force—of the blacks.

It must be remembered that the heart and soul of the element in the South to which we allude is absorbingly devoted to a support of these questions, and that they would then become direct issues in the election contests, as they are indirect issues now. The citizen of the South who then opposes a candidate for office running on a platform which included these questions as a bid for popular favor, would be subjected to the same wicked and rigorous impositions as the Abolitionists of ante bellum days were; would be hunted from his home; would be proscribed in every imaginable way, and would, no doubt, be murdered if he had the bravery to attempt to express his opinions in public. In short, the Slave oligarchy would be revived with the full backing of the Confederate army behind it.

Would the Northern people submit to this? Probably not, and before they would admit to the Presidential chair a man elected by such fraudulent means, the possibility of another sectional war would be discussed. But with the experience of the last few years, with the load of a great public debt to carry, and with hard times upon us, how many of our people would hesitate before taking the first step to renew civil strife? Would not some other Greasy arise to say, "Let our wayward sisters depart in peace?"

These gentlemen of Congress who claim to be Republicans, are the questions you are called upon to settle within the short space of the coming three weeks; these are the threatened prospects you are called upon to avoid, and these are the responsibilities which rest upon your shoulders—grave responsibilities—as grave as those which preceded the beginning of the war of secession; for they involve the life of the Republic. The Independent Press—Independent only of loyal and beneficent influences—may try to teach you that the people do not appreciate the situation as being so serious as we have attempted to portray it. But their teachings are false! And they laugh in their sleeves as they see you run away from the path of duty, affrighted by their assinine laying about the Bloody Shirt. The remedial measures are before you, have been carefully prepared by eminent and fearless lawyers of your own political faith, whose political futures are linked closely with your own, and demand your immediate approval. Let us have the yes and nays now without delay, and let us find out at once who are the demoralized men whose tender skins are covered with childish "goose flesh" whenever the Opposition press blows its stinking breath toward them.

TRICK ECONOMY consists in the absence of all useless expenditures and the careful investment of earnings in such a manner as will insure the most profitable returns consistent with the safety of the principal. This is equally true of individuals and nations. DEMOCRATIC ideas of a "government Republican in form" are fully represented by the compromise proposition of the so-called Wiltz Legislature of Louisiana. It is treated simply as a matter of "barter and sale." It is almost incredible that Mr. Wheeler should consent to entertain such a proposition. Do the grave and revered Senators at the Capitol mean to say that the residing who rent a house or room is not entitled to a voice in the character of the city, walks, sewerage or sanitary condition of the city, because his taxes find their way into the Treasury through his landlord's pocket? Is this Mr. Morrill's idea?

The ignorant, uneducated editor of the New York *Times* will probably discover in the course of time that the President sent a message to Congress regarding the Arkansas question, and then he will write something about it in his usual bungling way, and as usual misrepresent Republican sentiment in New York and elsewhere.

AND NOW the sensational correspondents assert that the President's Arkansas message was written by himself—which is true and sent to Congress without having been submitted to the Cabinet—which is a lie. Every member of the Cabinet stands by the policy announced in that message and they have individually stood by it since it was first broached by the President more than a month ago.

The new tariff bill should be passed as soon as possible. The proposed increase will at once be added to the prices of all the articles of consumption affected by it except whisky, which will be diluted a little more and related at the same prices, so that the quicker the bill becomes a law and the earlier it is made to take effect the more acceptable will be the relief to the demands upon the Treasury.

In the examination of one of the White League witnesses before the Congressional committee in New Orleans, Judge Hoar asked: "Who told you to do such things?" The witness hesitated and stammered and seemed greatly puzzled for fear he might name some other than the one he had been drilled and instructed to name. John Moncure, whom Warmoth dubbed "honest John," saw the fatal mistake the witness would make, and, forgetting himself, hastily

rose up and motioned to witness to name himself. (Moncure.) Every one in the room saw Moncure and understood his motion. The witness, who was a white man, took his seat several hundred, such is the power of these latter days that to draw the personal names of Jennings is one of the best means of raising success.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 1, 1875. **MARRIED.** CURTIS-HANFORD.—At the residence of the bride's parents, Washington, on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 1875, by Rev. J. W. FARRER, D. D., the marriage of Miss CURTIS, daughter of Mr. J. W. FARRER, D. D., and Mr. HANFORD, son of Mr. J. W. FARRER, D. D., was solemnized.

DIED. DAVIS.—On the 29th instant, EDITH M. DAVIS, infant daughter of George W. and Sarah E. DAVIS, died at the residence of her parents, 1130 1/2 Street, N. W., at 11:30 o'clock, at the age of 1 year and 10 months.

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did have something to say about it, for they refused to allow the choice in spite of Jennings and the fact that a very strong and popular Union League witness, who was a white man, took his seat several hundred, such is the power of these latter days that to draw the personal names of Jennings is one of the best means of raising success.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

W. H. C. A.

SECOND SOCIABLE of the season on FRIDAY EVENING from 7 to 11, at the residence of Mr. J. W. FARRER, D. D., 1130 1/2 Street, N. W.

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE AFRICAN, will be held at the residence of Mr. J. W. FARRER, D. D., 1130 1/2 Street, N. W., on FRIDAY EVENING, February 1, at 7:30 o'clock. By order of the Executive Committee.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF KENTUCKY. CONCERT AND DRAWING, FEBRUARY 27, 1875. Information and tickets at J. B. Adams, book-keeper, corner Ninth and F streets, N. W.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT. RECEIPTS OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT, for the month of JANUARY, 1875, will be published on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, at 11:30 o'clock.

IRVING CIRCULATING LIBRARY. The circulating library of the Irving Circulating Library, 1130 1/2 Street, N. W., will be open on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, at 11:30 o'clock.

THE CO-OPERATIVE. THE CO-OPERATIVE, a public purchasing association, will be open on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, at 11:30 o'clock.

DR. A. PRATT, GRADUATE OF THE COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY, will be open on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, at 11:30 o'clock.

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FOR RENT.

150 NORTH STREET, BETWEEN

FOR RENT, by the lot of SEVEN ROOMS, situated on the third floor, all the rooms and suitably furnished. Call on J. B. Adams, book-keeper, corner Ninth and F streets, N. W.

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